

# Where's Your Chair?

Ruth 1 1-14



Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God.

Psalm 146:4

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## **Praising:**

Lead, kindly Light, amid the  
encircling gloom,  
lead thou me on;  
the night is dark, and I am far  
from home,  
lead thou me on.  
Keep thou my feet, I do not ask to  
see  
the distant scene, one step  
enough for me.

## **Reading:**

Ruth 1:1-14  
Naomi and her daughters-in-law

Probably written in the eleventh century BC, Ruth tells an intimate family story against the backdrop of the anarchy reported in the preceding book of Judges. Amidst famine in his homeland of Bethlehem in Judah, Elimelech takes his family for refuge to

Moab, an area east of the Dead Sea. After Elimelech has died, the two sons marry local Moabite women. Ten years later the two sons die, leaving Naomi and her two daughters-in-law: Orpah and Ruth. On learning that the famine has ended, Naomi makes to return to Judah and tries to persuade Orpah and Ruth to stay behind in their homeland. In an emotional farewell, Naomi insists that the two women do not need to share the bitterness that God has dealt to her. Orpah stays, but Ruth cannot let go of her mother in law.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We pray Lord for those in the midst of grief

- those plunged into loneliness by the loss of the one whose closeness meant the most
- those who find themselves alone and far away from the people and places of home
- those who feel so bereft and isolated that they feel they must leave and make a new start

Father: thank you for those who have been there for me when it was my turn to suffer the heart-break of bereavement. Lead me to the ones you want me to cling to. Amen

## **Doing:**

Friday, 04 March 2016